

Amendment(s) to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended): A process for purification of a sample fraction from a chromatographic flow stream, comprising:

~~attaching securing~~ a vessel extender to a collection vessel to form an extended vessel assembly such that the flow stream enters the vessel extender and ~~flows~~ into the collection vessel;

collecting the flow stream into the extended vessel assembly; and

evaporating liquid solvent from the extended vessel assembly in a dry down process.

2 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising:

mounting a plurality of the vessel assemblies in a rack for transportation within sample purification system.

3 (currently amended): The process of claim 1, further comprising:

determining the amount of purified compound in each collection vessel,
~~comprising by:~~

weighing an empty collection vessel prior to attaching the vessel extender; and

re-weighing the collection vessel after the dry down process and removal of the vessel extender.

4 (currently amended): The process of claim 1, further comprising:

labeling the collection vessel for tracking through the purification process using one of ~~the following methods~~: bar-coding, pre-labeling, pre-etching, or a memory device such as a radio frequency tag.

5 (currently amended): The process of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ attaching a vessel extender comprises attaching with an automated capper/decapper device that automatically attaches the vessel extender to the collection vessel.

6 (currently amended): The process of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ collecting the sample fractions into the extended vessel assembly is performed using a fraction collector system operating at either atmospheric conditions or under a head pressure.

7 (currently amended): The process of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ evaporating solvent from the vessel assembly in the dry down process comprises evaporating with at least one of a centrifugal vacuum evaporator, modest heat applied to the assembly, and agitation of vessel contents under a vacuum.

8 (currently amended): The process of claim 1, wherein, after ~~said~~ collecting said flow stream, a ~~racks~~ rack of extended vessel assemblies ~~are~~ is transferred to a rough dry down station that evaporates ~~the vessel assemblies~~ said liquid solvent down to dryness.

9 (original): The process of claim 8, further comprising:

rinsing the vessel extender with a solvent after the rough dry down process and before the dry down process to remove residue of purified compound remaining on the vessel extender into the collection vessel.

10 (original): The process of claim 8, further comprising:

re-solvating the collection vessel by dispensing liquid solvent into the collection vessel.

11 (currently amended): A system for purification of a sample fraction from a chromatographic flow stream, comprising:

a collection vessel for collecting liquid phase from the flow stream;
a vessel extender attached secured to the collection vessel to form an extended vessel assembly for storage of sample fractions from the flow stream;
a fraction collector system to collect the sample fractions from the flow stream into the extended vessel assembly; and
a dry down station that evaporates the sample fractions from the extended vessel assembly in a dry down process.

12 (canceled).

13 (currently amended): The system of claim 12 11, further comprising:

a balance automator to determine amount of purified compound remaining in the collection vessel after the dry down process by weighing the collection vessel holding the dried purified compound after the extender vessel has been removed therefrom.

14 (original): The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a liquid dispensing module wherein a preservative is placed in the collection vessel after weighing in a balance automator.

15 (original): The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a capper/decapper module for removing and replacing the vessel extender from the collection vessel.